

A Strategic Plan for Reconciliation

Local Government plays a fundamental role in promoting reconciliation in Victorian communities.

Each new Council must formulate an overarching Strategic Plan in the first six months of its term. This is a crucial opportunity to ensure that your Council commits to real and positive steps towards reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

By committing to the actions contained in this statement, you are sending a powerful message to the electorate: as an elected Councillor, you will work to improve opportunities for Aboriginal members of your community.

Reconciliation Commitment Statement for LGA candidates

As an elected member of Council I will work so that the Strategic Plan commits my Council to:

Recognition

- Formulate a 'Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Australians' which acknowledges the Indigenous peoples as original inhabitants and commits the Council to the rights of Aboriginal people contained in the draft United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous People (see attached)
- Acknowledge traditional owners on the Council website, in all Council communications and at all Council events and functions.
- Consult with local Indigenous people over the naming of sites within my Council area.
- Permanently fly the Aboriginal flag outside all Council facilities.
- Establish an Aboriginal cultural heritage strategy which includes committing resources to researching the Indigenous history of the local area and promoting awareness of Aboriginal culture and heritage within the community.
- Formulate a treaty and/or agreement with local Aboriginal clans and peoples

Representation

- Establish an Indigenous advisory committee as a key mechanism to ensure that input from Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal members of our community is central to Council policy and operations.
- Convene a forum to establish a united approach to reconciliation within my Council area.
- Employ an Aboriginal policy officer to ensure permanent Aboriginal representation on Council committees, to identify key issues and opportunities

within Council boundaries, and to work with other departments to progress the Council's commitments to reconciliation.

Opportunity

- Develop an Indigenous employment strategy to improve Indigenous training and employment opportunities in my Council area.
- Provide assistance to Indigenous people to stand for future election to Council
- Commit Council resources to supporting Indigenous art and artists within my community.
- Commit Council resources to supporting Aboriginal community groups and reconciliation work in the Council area.
- Work collaboratively with Indigenous organisations to improve health and welfare of Aboriginal community members.

Education

- Work collaboratively with other local bodies including schools, Local Indigenous Networks, and Local Reconciliation Groups to improve awareness and education about the Aboriginal community and issues related to reconciliation
- Establish and/or commit funds to the development an Aboriginal Cultural Centre, in collaboration with Aboriginal community associations in my Council area (where identified as a priority by the Aboriginal Community).
- Ensure adequate cultural awareness training for all Council staff.
- Officially acknowledge Sorry Day events, National Reconciliation Week celebrations and other days of significance to the Aboriginal members of my Council area
- Attend community events, meetings or forums led by Indigenous people so as to continue to listen to the voice of community and better understand needs.

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